Detailed Project Report for the 1525 MW Santosh Multipurpose Project and also agreed to start work shortly on the Kuri-chu Hydel Project in Eastern Bhutan.

Failure of India's Lobbying firm in USA

4643. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Ministry of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's lobbying firm has failed to saop the Council of Khalistan from making another group of legislators write to U.S President Bill Clinton on continuing" human rights abuses in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Embassy in Washington to put across the dimensions of the Punjab problem in its proper perspective and counter the vicious propaganda being launched by some India-baiter Congressmen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Government are aware that several US Congressmen have written, individually or in groups, to President Clinton expressing concern about the situation in Punjab and alleging human rights violations by Indian security forces.

(b) Government have, through its Embassy in the US, and other channels, endeavoured to correct misperceptions on the issue highlighting that the situation in the Punjab today is peaceful and that there is today a democratically elected government in Punjab, where the rights of all Indians including Sikhs are protected under the law, regardless of their religion. This has been done by means of meetings, letters, speeches to members of the US Congress, officials of the US Administration, influential opinion-makers and representatives of the US media.

Production of Mineral Water in the country

4644. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of mineral water in the country during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of units engaged in the production of mineral water in the private and public sectors in the country; and

(c) what is the mechanism of quality control in this areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c) At present there are no sped-fications laid down for mineral water under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Hence the number of units engaged in the production of mineral water cannot be given.

Licence for Distilleries

4645. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING IN-DUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several lakhs of tonnes of grains such as Wheat, Barley, Maize, Rice etc. are damaged and destroyed every year due to poor and defective storage, and Vanaspati and fruit crops, like potato, Beet roots, Pineapples and other fruit crops are also damaged due to untimely and inadequate transport/ transit facilities during peak seasons with the result that these products become un-hygenic and unfit for human consumption and thus the real sufferers are the poor farmers and landless labourers;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether Government will relax rules for issuing of New Letters of Intent and Industrial licences for dis-illeries and Breweries to produce potable Alcohol based on the products referred in part (a) above for relief of poor farmers and landless labourers to save their soul, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the names and details of authorities to be approached for grant of such licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) :

(a) During storage, various kinds of pests, including fungi, bacteria, insects and rodents can cause considerable damage if storage, transport and transit facilities are not good enough.

During the year 1992-93, 10307.61 MTs of foodgrains in Government stocks were reported to have been damaged in the godowns held/hired by the Food Corporation of India.

(b) and (c) Fresh applications for grant of licence for the manufacture of potable alcohol from non-molasses based raw-materials, were invited by the Government between 4-4-1988 and 16-3-1991. Applications received after 16-3-1991 are not being entertained.

Importing Chicken

4646. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has seen 'The Poineer' report of 2nd February, 1994 regarding Kentucky Fried Chicken remarks that Indian Chicken is not suitable for them; and

(b) whether Government have conceded their demand to import chicken from U.S.A. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The company has not made any request for permission for import of chicken.

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग में पूंजी निवेश

4647. श्री वीरेन जे० शाह : क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान एक भारतीय वैज्ञानिक श्री एम० एस० स्वामीनाथन की अध्यक्षता में गठित "इटरनेशनल कमीशन आन पीस एण्ड फूड" के उस प्रतिवेदन की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसके अनुसार खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों में सीमित पूंजी निवेश करके भारत में भारी संख्या में लोगों को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में उक्त कमीशन के प्रतिवेदन का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उक्त प्रतिवेदन में व्यक्त की गई राय की प्रमाणिकता की जांच की है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार के निष्कर्ष क्या हैं ;

(ङ) यदि सरकार प्रतिवेदन में व्यक्त की गई राय से सहमत है तो क्या वह छोटे और कुटीर उद्योगों को आरक्षित सूची में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग को शामिल करने के संबंध में निर्णय लेगी ; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री तरुण गोगोई) (क) से (च) "इटरनेशनल कमीशन आन पीए एंड फूड" द्वारा प्रस्तुत एक दस्तावेज में देश को, उपयोग में न लायी गयी विशाल संभावनाओं कोओर ध्यान आकृष्ट किया गया है और उन्हें सपन्नता में बदलने के उपाय बताए गये हैं । उक्त दस्तावेज में उल्लिखित उद्देश्य अतिरिक्त 15 मिलियन हेक्टेयर जमीन की सिंचाई के अन्तर्गत लाने के अलावा ग्रामीण, शहरी और गरीब बेरोजगार युवकों के लिए पूरे वर्ष अतिरिक्त कार्य जुटाना तथा अतिरिक्त आय और अतिरिक्त निर्यात जुटाना है । दस्तावेज में उल्लिखित कार्यनीति में कृषि आधारित व्यवसाय कवर होते हैं जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ साथ खाद्यान्न, कपास, चीनी, बागवानी, अक्वा कलचर, रेशम उत्पादन, तिलहन, डेरी और अन्य फसलें शामिल हैं ।

विभिन्न प्रकार के कृषि आधारित व्यवसायों को सहायता देकर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आमदनी एवं रोजगार जुटाने के लिए परिवर्तनकारी विचारों का समर्थन करने के वास्ते छोटे कृषकों केलिए कृषि व्यवसाय संघ की स्थापना करने का सरकार का प्रस्ताव है ।